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SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

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TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO TW  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-TAIWAN RELATIONS

"President Chen's [Practice of] Informing the United States Before He Makes Announcements on Cross-Straight Policy Has Become Standard Practice"

The conservative, pro-unification "United Daily News" editorialized (11/16):

". Evidently, the consistent context as well as the central theme manifested in President Chen's `inaugural speech,' `National Day address,' and his `announcement at the National Security Council' are: the United States wants President Chen to publicly announce that he will accept using the `1992 consensus' to deal with the `one China' issue. This [request] is different from [Chen's announcement of] the `five No's' policy. The `five No's' policy is simply a request asking President Chen to pledge what he will not do, but now the [United States] wants Chen to say affirmatively that he accepts the `1992 consensus' and `one China [policy].'" .

"Within just one month, the United States has twice asked President Chen to make a formal announcement in public; Washington's concerns over the cross-Straight situation are thus perceived. Likewise, Chen's predicament is also made evident by the fact that he had to make a public announcement twice within one month at the request of the United States, and his second announcement was even a supplement to and revision of his first one. .

"[National Security Council Secretary-General] Chiou I-jen said the United States will talk with Beijing from its perspective over Chen's overture at the National Security Council. What Chiou was saying was that [Taipei] has done what the United States requested and it is now up to Washington as to how it will promote Chen's `goodwill gesture' to Beijing.

"For President Chen, it is easy for Washington to put words into his mouth and ask him to say in public whatever the United States wants him to say. Nonetheless, whether Chen's remarks will have any positive effect does not really rely on the United States; rather, it depends on President Chen . ."

PAAL